

SHORT COMMUNICATION

ON THE GENUS *EILICA* (ARANEAE, GNAPHOSIDAE) FROM ARGENTINA

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ABSTRACT. *Eilica pomposa* new species, from Buenos Aires, Argentina, and the male of *E. uniformis* (Schiapelli & Gerschman 1942) are described for the first time. New records from Argentina for *E. uniformis*, *E. modesta* and *E. trilineata* are included.

Keywords: *Eilica*, Gnaphosidae, new species, Neotropical region

The genus *Eilica* Keyserling 1891 can be easily distinguished from other gnaphosids by the presence of two or three translucent laminae on the cheliceral retromargin (Platnick 1975), similar to the lamina found in the closely related genus *Callilepis* Westring. These laminae are probably associated with their preference for preying on ants (Goloboff 2000). The genus is represented in Argentina by four species: *E. modesta* Keyserling 1891, *E. trilineata* (Mello-Leitão 1941), *E. uniformis* (Schiapelli & Gerschman 1942) (Platnick 1975, 1985; Platnick & Shadab 1981; Goloboff 2000) and *E. myrmecophila* (Simon 1903) (Platnick 1985; Platnick & Shadab 1981). Recent collecting with pitfall traps in Córdoba and Buenos Aires provinces has resulted in large samples of previously poorly-known spiders, among which are a new species of *Eilica* and the previously unknown male of *E. uniformis*, which are described below. The distribution of the species of *Eilica* in Argentina is shown in Fig. 1.

METHODS

All specimens examined are deposited in Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales (MACN, Cristina Scioscia), Facultad de Ciencias Exactas de Córdoba (FCEC, Luis Acosta) and Instituto Argentino de Investigaciones de Zonas Áridas (IADIZA, Sergio Roig-Juñent). The format of descriptions follows Platnick (1975) and Brescovit & Höfer (1993). Measurements are in millimeters.

Eilica uniformis (Schiapelli & Gerschman)
Figs. 1–4

Laronia uniformis Schiapelli & Gerschman 1942: 330, figs. 17, 19 (female holotype from Colonia Dora, Santiago del Estero, Argentina, in MACN, examined); Gerschman & Schiapelli 1967: 201, figs. 17–20.

Eilica uniformis: Platnick 1975: 9, figs. 18–19.

Diagnosis.—Males are very similar to those of *E. rufithorax* (Simon 1892) but can be distinguished by their smaller median apophysis and by the pattern of light and dark areas on the dorsum of the abdomen.

Description.—*Male*: (Chancaní). Total length 3.08. Carapace 1.24 long, 0.94 wide. Length femur/tibia: I 0.82/0.62; II 0.70/0.52; III 0.60/0.42; IV 0.90/0.72. Carapace light brown medially, darker, striped laterally. Abdomen with dorsal distinctive pattern of light areas (Fig. 2). Palp (Figs. 3, 4): Tibial apophysis long, bent. Copulatory bulb: embolus with apical projecting lamella on base. Median apophysis short, bent. Leg spination not provided because in both specimens most spines are lost and their insertions are not distinctly visible.

Female: Described by Schiapelli & Gerschman (1942), Gerschman & Schiapelli (1967), and Platnick (1975).

Other material examined.—**ARGENTINA:** *Chubut*: Puerto Lobos, Jan. 1975, (E.A. Maury, MACN), 1 ♀. *Córdoba*: Chancaní, 19 Nov.–23 Dec. 1993, 1 ♂ 1 ♀ (C. Mattoni, MACN), 1 ♂ 2 ♀ (C. Mat-

toni, FCEC). *Misiones*: Santa María, 1944 (J.M. Viana, MACN), 1 ♀; Puerto Iguazú, 1954 (Schiapelli & Gerschman, MACN), 1 ♀; Puerto Libertad, 1953 (Schiapelli & Gerschman, MACN), 1 ♀.

Distribution.—Known only from Argentina (Fig. 1).

Eilica pomposa new species
Figs. 5–7

Type.—Male holotype from a community of *Baccharis salicifolia* (chilca) in Reserva Natural Otamendi, Buenos Aires province, Argentina, 18 March 1998 (Belén Fuentes and Osvaldo Di Iorio, MACN 2780).

Etymology.—The specific name is from the Latin word *pompa*, which means ostentation.

Diagnosis.—*Eilica pomposa* is closest to *E. modesta*, but it can be distinguished by having a larger median apophysis and a longer and pointed tibial apophysis.

Description.—*Male* (holotype): Total length 3.10. Carapace 1.43 long, 1.08 wide. Length femur/tibia: I 0.90/0.73; II 0.70/

0.53; III 0.73/0.52; IV 1.00/0.88. Palp description: protruding portion of embolar base twisted, median apophysis large, thick, curved. Tibial apophysis elongate, curved, pointed (Figs. 6, 7). Leg spination: Femora: I d 0-1-1-0; II d 0-1-1-0; III d 0-1-1-0, p 1 ap; IV d 0-1-1-0, r 1 ap. Tibiae: I v 0-0-r1-2; II v 0-r1-r1-2; III p 1-1-0-0, v 0-p1-2-2, r 0-0-d1-d1; IV r 0-0-d1-d1. Metatarsi: I v 0-2-r1-2 or v 0-p1-p1-2; II v 0-2-0-2 or v 0-2-r1-2; III p 1 ap., v 0-0-r1-2, r 1 ap.; IV p 1 ap., v 0-p1-p1-2, r 1 ap. Tarsi: IV v 0-0-2-2. Abdomen: Dorsal pattern of four pairs of white specks and several posterior dark lines (Fig. 5).

Female.—Unknown.

Other material examined.—A male from Argentina, Mendoza, Reserva Ñacuñán, 22 Nov. 1997 (S. Lagos, IADIZA), seems to belong to the same species although it is from a very distant locality (ca. 1000 km apart, see Fig. 1). Further collections may help to elucidate the actual distribution of the species.

ADDITIONAL RECORDS IN ARGENTINA

Eilica modesta—*Jujuy*: No specific locality, 17 Jan. 1966 (E.A. Maury, MACN), 1 ♀. *Córdoba*: Tanti, 1950 (J.M. Viana, MACN), 1 ♂; Calamuchita, 1955 (J.M. Viana, MACN), 2 ♀. *Buenos Aires*: Sierra de la Ventana, Dec. 1968 (E.A. Maury, MACN), 1 ♀; San Vicente, 1964 (Canto, MACN), 2 ♀. *Santiago del Estero*: No specific locality, March 1963 (Hepper, MACN), 1 ♀.

Eilica trilineata.—*Catamarca*: Capillitas, 1 Feb. 1981 (A. Roig, MACN), 2 ♂ 2 ♀. *San Juan*: Las Tumanas, 14 April 1979 (A. Roig, MACN), 1 ♀. *La Rioja*: Aimogasta, 1944 (J. Cáceres Freyre, MACN), 1 ♀.

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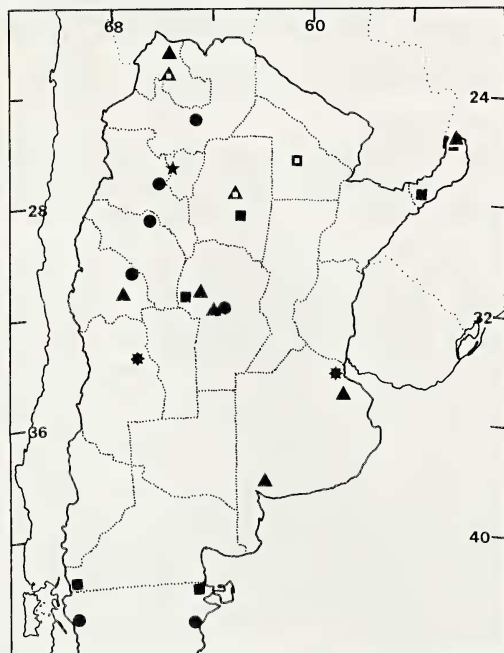
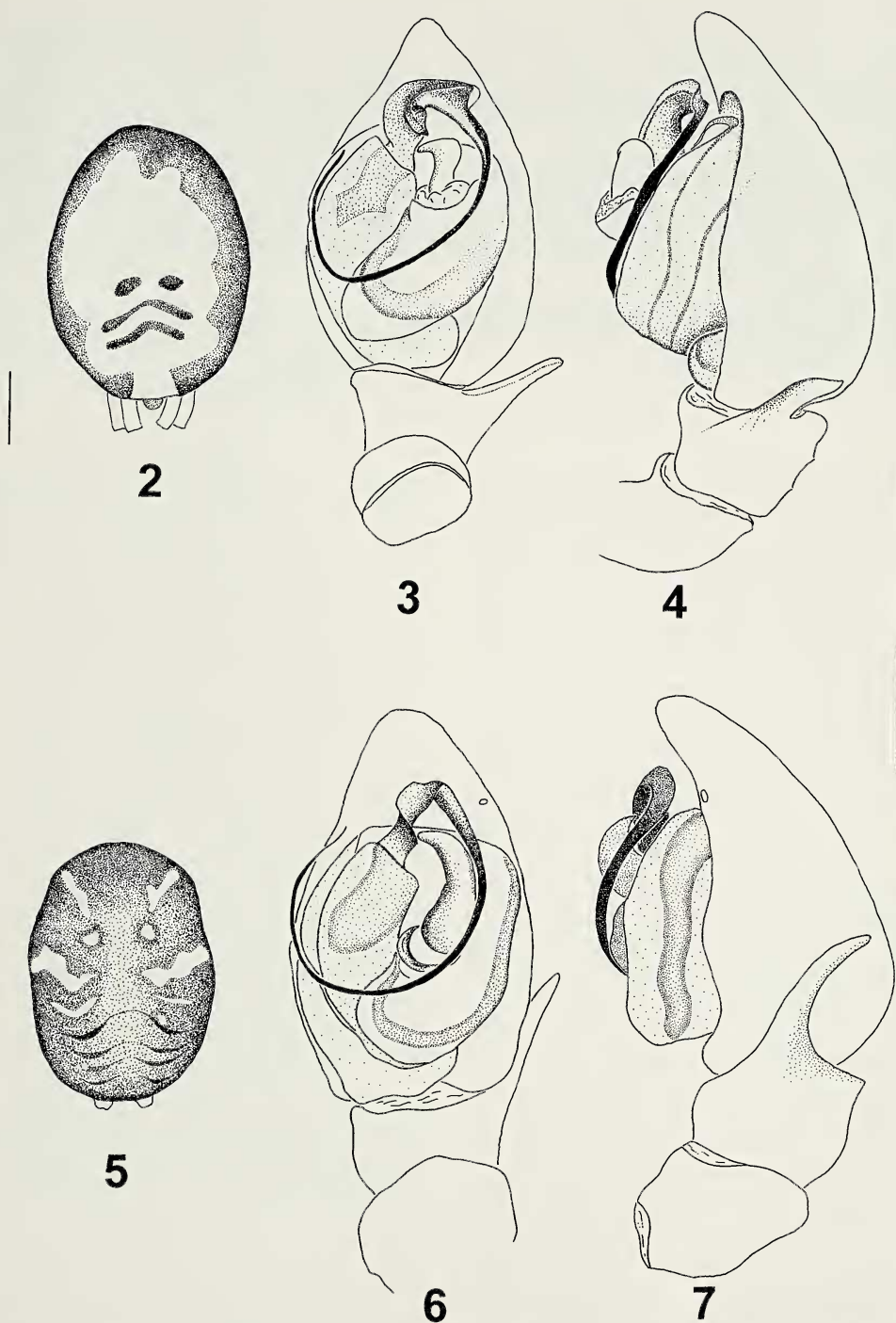


Figure 1.—Distribution of the species of *Eilica* in Argentina. ▲ = *E. modesta*, ■ = *E. uniformis*, ● = *E. trilineata*, * = *E. pomposa* new species, ★ = *E. myrmecophila*. Symbols with a white square inside indicate that the specific locality is not known. (Data from this paper and Platnick 1975, 1981, 1985.)



Figures 2-7.—2. *Eilica uniformis*, abdomen, dorsal view; 3. *E. uniformis*, palp, ventral view; 4. *E. uniformis*, palp, retrolateral view; 5. *Eilica pomposa* new species, abdomen, dorsal view; 6. *E. pomposa* new species palp, ventral view; 7. *E. pomposa* new species, palp, retrolateral view. Scale = 0.5 mm.

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